

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 FEA-01 COME-00

USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /064 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/E - WSCLARKE:GFH
APPROVED BY ARA-LA/EP - RICHARD WEBER
EB/ORF/FSE - MCREEKMORE (INFO)
EB/IFD/OIA - TBRODERICK (INFO)
L/ARA - DGANTZ (INFO)

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O R 072144Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EINV, ENRG, EC, US

SUBJECT: TEXACO-GULF ACTIVITIES IN ECUADOR
REF: QUITO 3026

1. AMBASSADOR CARDENAS AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF CALLED ON SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 6 IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER CONDUCT BY GULF OIL COMPANY PUBLISHED IN WALL STREET JOURNAL ON MAY 2, APPLIED TO ECUADOR. SEC OFFICIALS PROVIDED COPIES OF CERTAIN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, BUT WERE UNABLE TO SATISFY ECUADOREAN CURIOSITY ON MATTER AT THAT TIME BECAUSE MATTER REMAINS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

2. IN MEETING WITH ARA-LA/EP OFFICERS ON MAY 7, AMBASSA-
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DOR CARDENAS STATED THAT HIS CALL ON SEC OFFICES WAS AT

INSTRUCTION HIS GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING WHETHER ECUADOR HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE TESTIMONY TAKEN, AND IF SO, FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MATTER. DEPTOFFS ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE, WITHIN REQUIREMENTS OF U.S. LAW ON SUCH ACTIVITIES, WOULD BE PROVIDED. FURTHER MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT IS PLANNED FOR MAY 8.

3. LOCAL GULF OIL GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE, NESTOR ORTIZ, INFORMED DEPARTMENT TODAY THAT GULF PLANS TO DELIVER LETTERS TO PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR THIS AFTERNOON IN WHICH GULF PRESIDENT APOLOGIZES FOR PRESS SPECULATION THAT IMPROPER ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE TWO COUNTRIES, REGRETS THAT SECRET TESTIMONY GIVEN TO USG APPEARED IN PRESS, AND CATEGORICALLY DENIES THAT COUNTRY INVOLVED IN ALLEGED PAYOFFS IS EITHER VENEZUELA OR ECUADOR. GULF INTENDS HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE AFTERNOON MAY 7, ANNOUNCING GIST OF ABOVE, BUT NOT RELEASING TEXTS.

4. CARDENAS ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ HAD CALLED OFF THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULED MEETING WITH TEXACO-GULF EXECUTIVES, IN WAKE OF PRESS FLURRY SPARKED BY ORIGINAL WALL STREET JOURNAL ARTICLE. POST REQUESTED INFORM DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL REACTIONS TO GULF DENIAL STATEMENT AND ANY INDICATIONS THAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT RESCHEDULED.

5. IN LATER DEVELOPMENTS, NESTOR ORTIZ DELIVERED COPY OF RODRIGUEZ LETTER TO AMBASSADOR CARDENAS WHO SUBSEQUENTLY CONTACTED HIS PRESIDENT. CARDENAS REPORTED TO DESK THAT EVERYONE IS GREATLY RELIEVED AND THAT PRESIDENT MEETING WITH T-G EXECUTIVES "WILL SURELY BE RESCHEDULED." KISSINGER

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